

REMARKS

In an Office Action dated February 13, 2003, the Examiner rejected all claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,125,275 (Comer) in view of U.S. Patent 5,719,564 (Sears). Both of the cited patents and Applicants' patent application relate to arrangements for telemetering using radio links to connect telemetering devices to the utilities which supply the quantity (e.g., power, gas) being measured. However, neither of the cited patents relate to arrangements for using a single telephone number to identify a plurality of wireless devices, i.e., telemetering units which are connected via a radio link. The conservation of telephone numbers has always been important and for an application, such as a broad telemetering application, the number of extra telephone numbers required is potentially huge.

In the original application, this was recited specifically in claims 2 and 13. The Examiner commented:

Regarding claims 2, 13 the Examiner takes Official Notice that it is well known in the telephony art (such as Pinard et al.) that a plurality of wireless cellular devices to be associated with a single directory number.

Since the Examiner did not cite a specific patent for this teaching, Applicants examined all patents issued to Pinard et al. and find that these patents refer to multi-terminal groups where a call is directed to any or all of the terminals of the group that are available. This situation is quite distinct from the situation being claimed by Applicants wherein a connection is established between a server system and a selected wireless device, i.e., one that is identified by a unique mobile identification number. The Examiner did not cite prior art wherein a particular telephone number is associated with a plurality of cellular devices but wherein a connection is made to a selected one of these devices.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter of Applicants' amended claims is not taught or suggested by the cited patents or the Official Notice as represented by the issued Pinard et al. patents. Because the subject matter of Claims 2 and 13 has been incorporated in Claims 1 and 12, respectively, Claims 2 and 13 are being canceled.

Applicants will explain the amended claims. The explanations are given for the apparatus claims but similar explanations apply to the method claims.

Claim 1 is the only independent claim and recites apparatus for establishing a connection between a server system and a selected wireless device. The third clause recites that a plurality of wireless cellular devices are associated with a single directory number. As explained on page 2, bottom half:

The telephone number associated with the device to be accessed need not be a telephone number of a customer. Advantageously, one telephone number can serve a small or large number of devices and each individual device is identified by a unique IMSI....

The IMSI or other equivalent mobile identification number is used to page a cellular device and only the cellular devices having that IMSI will respond. Therefore, as long as the IMSIs are unique to each device and, inventively, as long as there are ways of associating a plurality of IMSIs with a single telephone number and selecting among the plurality, the number of telephone numbers required for Applicants' service is greatly reduced.

Claim 1 goes on to recite that the server system provides information for identifying a mobile identification number of the selected cellular device. The various techniques of providing this information are discussed in the dependent claims. Finally, the home location register means stores tabular data for deriving a mobile identification number from the information received from the server system.

Claim 3, a single directory number is a directory number of the server system as described in the bottom two lines of the last complete paragraph of page 2. In that case, the information sent by the server system includes the mobile identification number.

This also applies to Claim 4. Claim 5 simply recites that the mobile identification number is an IMSI. Claim 6 recites that the server system provides a terminating directory number plus an originating directory number. The originating directory number is used to identify a source so that data for a common terminating directory number, e.g., for one household, can be translated into a plurality of mobile identification numbers as recited in Claim 7. The same objective can be achieved by providing a call type along with the terminating directory number. Claim 9 recites that the information provided by the server system includes an IMSI as opposed to other mobile identification numbers.

Claim 10 recites the specific function of a home location register to be responsive to a location request message. Finally, Claim 11 recites that an ISDN facility can be used advantageously between the server system and the infrastructure in order to facilitate transmission of the information for identifying the mobile identification numbers. Since an ISDN facility allows for a flexible and relatively long signaling message, this can be readily accomplished.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter of the claims as amended should be held allowable. Applicants therefore request that the Examiner reconsider the rejection, allow claims 1, 3-12, 14-22, as amended, and pass the application to issue.

If the Examiner feels that a voice or fax communication would help to advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call or fax Applicants' attorney at 630 469-3575.

Respectfully submitted

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